

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 04891 091054Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 090821Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1548

S E C R E T SEOUL 4891

NODIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: NEW EFFORT TO RESOLVE KIM DONG-JO ISSUE

REF: STATE 143278

1. ON MY INSTRUCTIONS POLCOUNS CLARK MET WITH MOFA'S PAK SSANG-YONG MORNING JUNE 9 TO EXPLORE THE MOFA REACTION TO THE JUNE 6 KIM/JAWORSKI MEETING AND THE NEW PROPOSAL. PAK STATED THAT THEIR REPORT FROM AMB KIM HAD LEFT THEM WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE JAWORSKI PROPOSAL WHILE HAVING POSSIBILITIES, WAS STILL TOO VAGUE. AS MOFA NOW UNDERSTANDS IT, KIM DONG-JO WOULD INITIATE THE EXCHANGE BY PROVIDING A DRAFT TO JAWORSKI DETAILING HIS ACTIVITIES VIS-A-VIS CONGRESS DURING HIS TENURE AS AMBASSADOR. JAWORSKI WOULD THEN REVIEW THIS AND IF HE FOUND IT ACCEPTABLE THE DOCUMENT WOULD BE TRANSLATED INTO A LETTER OR OTHER DOCUMENT TO BE TRANSMITTED UNDER KIM DONG-JO'S SIGNATURE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES -- SPECIFIC ADDRESSEE NOT DETERMINED. PAK EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT KIM DONG-JO WOULD NOT KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN ON AN EXCHANGE OF THIS NATURE AND STATED THAT MOFA HAD GONE BACK TO AMB KIM IN WASHINGTON ASKING FOR MORE DETAILS, SPECIFICALLY WHETHER JAWORSKI WOULD PROVIDE INITIAL QUESTIONS FOR KIM'S RESPONSE AND WHAT WOULD BE THE FORM OF THE FINAL DOCUMENT.

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2. POLCOUNS ON BASIS OF REFTTEL TOLD PAK THAT HE THOUGHT THE SEBUL PREFERRED PROGRESSION FOR THIS EXCHANGE, I.E., BEGINNING WITH QUESTIONS PROVIDED BY JAWORSKI, SHOULD BE ENTIRELY ACCEPTABLE AND IN FACT HE HAD BEEN UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THIS WAS PART OF THE ORIGINAL SUGGESTION. NOT WISHING TO QUEER WHATEVER GAME AMB KIM MAY BE PLAYING,

HOWEVER, HE SAID HE WOULD GO BACK FOR CLARIFICATION ON THE TWO POINTS RAISED.

3. PAK SAID THAT THE RESOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM WAS MADE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT BY THE PASSAGE OF THE HOUSE RESOLUTION. NOW IN ADDITION TO WORKING OUT A SCENARIO COMPATIBLE WITH THE VIENNA CONVENTION, THE ROK ALSO HAD TO BE CONCERNED WITH ANY APPEARANCES OF GIVING INTO US PRESSURE. POLCOUNS SAID HE WAS AWARE THAT HOUSE RESOLUTION INTRODUCED A NEW DIMENSION INTO THE PROBLEM AT HAND BUT UJGED ROKG CONTINUE PRESENT DIALOGUE WHICH HAD PROMISE OF ACHIEVING A SOLUTION TO THE CURRENT IMPASS. PAK STATED THAT MOFA WAS PROCEEDING ALONG THOSE LINES BUT THAT HE WANTED THE EMBASSY AND THE DEPARTMENT TO BE AWARE OF ALL THE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED.

4. LATER IN DAY I HAD LUNCH WITH KCIA DIRECTOR KIM WHO WAS VERY POSITIVE WITH REGARD TO EVENTUAL SOLUTION OF THE KIM DONG-JO PROBLEM. HE FELT THAT THE JAWORSKI PROPOSAL, IN THE SPIRIT OF MUTUAL COOPERATION WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. HE STATED THAT THE ROKG IS DETERMINED TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM. I RAISED WITH DIRECTOR KIM QUESTION OF KIM DONG-JO'S CONTINUED TENURE IN BLUE HOUSE AND SUGGESTED THAT THIS STATUS WAS A POTENTIAL SOURCE OF EMBARRASSMENT, PARTICULARLY TO PRESIDENT PARK. (I HAVE MADE SIMILAR POINT IN FAREWELL CALLS TO SPEAKER CHUNG AND
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CHAIRMAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHOI. BOTH AGREED.) DIRECTOR KIM AGREED COMPLETELY AND TOLD ME QUITE CONFIDENTIALLY THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS PROBLEM WITH THE PRESIDENT AS WELL AS WITH THE PRIMIN AND FONMIN AND THAT ALL AGREED IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE IF KIM DONG-JO VOLUNTARILY RESIGNED. HE INDICATED THAT IF RESIGNATION WAS NOT VOLUNTARY IT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE FORCED. SO FAR KIM DONG-JO REFUSES TO TAKE GENTLE HINTS AND MORE PRESSURE MAY BE REQUIRED.

5. I MIGHT ADD IN ALL MY DISCUSSIONS I HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT HOUSE RESOLUTION IS REALLY MOST MODERATE ACTION POSSIBLE GIVEN PRESSURES FOR MORE HEAVYHANDED APPROACH. I FIND THAT THERE IS ALMOST UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT WITH THIS JUDGEMENT PRIVATELY. PROBLEM IS PUBLIC POSTURE OF APPEARING TO CAVE IN TO US CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURES OF THIS NATURE.

5. COMMENT: SOME PRESS COMMENTS TODAY NOTWITHSTANDING, BOTH MOFA AND KCIA APPEAR POSITIVE IN THEIR APPROACH TO THE LATEST INITIATIVE BY JAWORSKI. WE ARE NOT SURE WHAT AMBASSADOR KIM HAS IN MIND BY NOT LAYING ALL OF THE

PROPOSAL ON THE TABLE AND SUGGEST THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH
TO EXPLORE THIS WITH HIM IN AN APPROPRIATE MANNER.
ADDITIONALLY, ANYTHING THAT CAN BE PROVIDED ABOUT THE FORM
OF THE FINAL DOCUMENT TO BE SUBMITTED BY KIM DONG-JO
FOLLOWING INITIAL DRAFTS AND REVISIONS WILL BE MOST USEFUL
TO US IN OUR DISCUSSIONS HERE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CORRUPTION, BRIBERY, INVESTIGATIONS, PROGRESS REPORTS, MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SEOUL04891
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840157-2499
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780676/aaaacmzr.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3acd428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 STATE 143278
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2414123
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW EFFORT TO RESOLVE KIM DONG-JO ISSUE
TAGS: PGOV, KS, (KIM DONG-JO), (JAWORSKI, LEON), (KIM YONG-SHIK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3acd428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014